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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

Report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held at Port-of-Spain from 3 to 5 July 1995

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1) aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, in which, inter alia, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was requested to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

2. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that:

> "[I]n addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

3. In its resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Special Committee should carry out, during its 1995 session, a mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

4. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar (A/AC.109/2024), the primary objective of the Seminar was to assess political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories particularly with a view to evaluating their evolution towards self-determination. Special attention was paid to the examination of the options for self-determination open to the populations of the Territories concerned in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, as well as the Plan of Action.

5. The topics considered by the Seminar would assist the Special Committee in carrying out a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. Considering the particular importance of the review of the Plan of Action at the mid-point of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Seminar invited representatives of the peoples and the administering Powers from the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region. It also secured the participation of experts, organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of these Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which would assist the Special Committee in its consideration of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during its 1995 session.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

6. The Seminar was held at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 3 to 5 June 1995.

7. The Seminar held six meetings, in which representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as experts on the question of decolonization took part. A list of participants is given in annex II to the present report.

8. The Seminar was conducted by Mr. Eugene M. Pursoo (Grenada), Chairman of the Special Committee. The following members of the Special Committee participated: China, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela. Argentina participated in the Seminar as an observer. Portugal took part in the work of the Seminar in its capacity as an administering Power.

9. At the first meeting, on 3 July 1995, the following representatives were appointed as officers of the Seminar:

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Alimamy Pallo Bangura (Sierra Leone);

Rapporteur: Mrs. Annette des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago);

Chairman of the Drafting Committee: Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea);

Members of the Drafting Committee: Mr. Rengaraj Viswanathan (India); Mrs. Annette des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago); Mr. Ulli K. Mwambulukutu (United Republic of Tanzania); Mr. Allan Breier (Venezuela).

It was subsequently agreed that the Drafting Committee would be open-ended.

10. The agenda of the Seminar contained the following items:

1. Economic and social questions; environmental issues:

(a) Economic and social advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories; its impact on the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(b) Development of tourism; its impact on the economic and social sectors, and on the environment;

(c) Issue of drug trafficking and money laundering;

(d) Human resources development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(e) The role of specialized agencies and international and regional organizations in the economic and social advancement of the Territories;

(f) Access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system;

(g) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening by both the Territories concerned and international agencies: preservation and protection of marine and other natural resources from over-exploitation; transport and communications; higher education; research and development; regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise; and assistance in the public health area;

(h) Implications for the island Territories of global warming, sea-level rise and other ecological hazards;

(i) Local efforts in national disaster preparedness: institutionalization and coordination of disaster relief;

(j) International and regional cooperation in mitigating the effects of natural disasters;

(k) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region.

2. Options for self-determination:

Self-determination: concept, options and their application in small island Non-Self-Governing Territories; examination of options for self-determination available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions:

(i) Independence;

(ii) Free association with an independent State;

(iii) Integration with an independent State;

(iv) Association with an organization (regional/subregional) of independent States;

(v) Economically sustainable autonomy;

(vi) Other possible options.

III. CONDUCT OF THE SEMINAR

A. Proceedings of the meetings

11. The Seminar was opened on 3 July 1995 by Mr. Eugene M. Pursoo (Grenada), in his capacity as Chairman of the Seminar.

12. The Chairman introduced Mr. Vincent Lasse, Minister of Housing and Settlements of Trinidad and Tobago, who delivered an address at the opening of the Seminar. In accordance with a decision taken by the Seminar at its first meeting, on 3 July 1995, the statement is reproduced in extenso in annex I to the present report.

13. At its sixth meeting, on 5 July 1995, the Seminar adopted by consensus a final document entitled "Conclusions and recommendations" (for further details, see chap. III). At the same meeting, the Seminar adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago (see annex III to the present report). At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made a closing statement.

14. Also at the sixth meeting, the representative of Indonesia reiterated the position of his Government on the question of East Timor and expressed reservations regarding any reference to East Timor.

B. Summary of statements and discussions

15. During the discussion of the items on the agenda of the Seminar, the participants expressed their views on a number of issues, including the following:

(a) Options for self-determination

(i) While considering the options available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Special Committee should be guided by General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other options in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international covenants;

(ii) Appropriate political educational campaigns concerning a legitimate option or options for self-determination and their implications should precede any exercise of the right to self-determination;

(iii) A view was expressed that the future status of Gibraltar should be considered in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(iv) The Seminar heard statements by representatives of Indonesia, Portugal and East Timor, reaffirming their commitment to continue their ongoing dialogue to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the East Timor issue, with the assistance of the United Nations.

(b) Political and constitutional development

(i) Strengthening of local self-government facilitates advancement towards the right to self-determination;

(ii) The legitimate acts of self-determination organized in the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be conducted with the appropriate involvement of the United Nations, taking into consideration United Nations experience world wide in assisting in organizing elections and other such exercises.

(c) Regional organizations and arrangements

(i) Participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and subregional organizations is an important catalyst towards the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(ii) The participants noted with appreciation the commendable work done by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in reaching out to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean area through the inclusion of these Territories in its work programme, research studies and analyses with regard to the situation in these Territories.

(d) Socio-economic issues

Representatives of many Non-Self-Governing Territories were of the view that the achievement of adequate sustainable economic development should precede any exercise of self-determination.

(e) Special Committee

(i) The Special Committee should continue to take into account the changing international circumstances when realistically assessing the political developments with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(ii) The Special Committee, in conjunction with the specialized agencies and international institutions of the United Nations system, should continue to undertake periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and of the Plan of Action for the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000;

(iii) The Special Committee should continue to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in obtaining greater benefits from the United Nations system as a means of enhancing their socio-economic development and political advancement;

(iv) The Special Committee should continue to implement its mandate with greater innovation and flexibility and through pragmatic and practical approaches;

(v) The participants noted that the dissemination of information on decolonization issues and the receipt of information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories are far from adequate, and expressed the view that the Special Committee should explore options to widen and intensify its contacts and communications with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the field of receiving and disseminating information on decolonization. In this connection, they requested the United Nations Committee on Information to mandate the Department of Public Information to increase its activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(vi) The participants also emphasized the importance of participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the deliberations of the Special Committee.

(f) United Nations system

The peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be provided comprehensive information on the scope and modalities of assistance that can be provided to them by the United Nations.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEMINAR

16. At its final meeting, on 5 July 1995, the participants in the Seminar adopted by consensus the following conclusions and recommendations:

Conclusions and recommendations

The Seminar, having undertaken the mid-term review of the implementation of the Plan of Action:

1. Wishes to extend, in this the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the mid-term in the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, its unanimous heartfelt congratulations to

the world Organization for its many achievements in the various areas of activities and, in particular, for its resounding success to date in the area of decolonization; also wishes to express its best wishes to the United Nations for its future successes for the benefit of all countries and peoples of the world, including those yet to exercise their right to self-determination, with its assistance and guidance;

2. Recognizes that the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is not yet complete and, in assisting in the further development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, recommends that observer status be extended to the Non-Self-Governing Territories for their participation in the official activities of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations;

3. Considers that, in the present stage of global developments, there is a need for identifying and implementing innovative practical and pragmatic approaches in the search for a specific solution to each of the Territories in question in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the populations concerned and in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other relevant United Nations resolutions;

4. Reiterates that specific characteristics of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should in no way prevent their populations from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

5. Expresses its conviction that continued and sustained socio-economic advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories is an important element of self-determination;

6. Recognizes the importance of programmes of socio-economic assistance provided to those Territories by the administering Powers, as well as by the specialized agencies and international organizations of the United Nations system and by regional and subregional organizations; requests those major donors to increase their programmes of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in conformity with the needs and wishes of the peoples of the Territories;

7. Considers that foreign investment, in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in conformity with their needs, constitutes an important factor in the socio-economic development of the Territories and can make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination;

8. Takes note with satisfaction of the announced plans of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of their remaining military bases and facilities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and requests the administering Powers and the territorial Governments to cooperate, with a view to preventing or mitigating the possible

negative socio-economic and environmental consequences of those closures;

9. Reaffirms the validity of all available options for self-determination as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV); also reaffirms the importance of ascertaining the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through legitimate acts of self-determination;

10. Maintains that continued examination of the spectrum of options for self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Plan of Action;

11. Expresses concern about the lack of attendance at the Seminar on the part of the elected territorial representatives because of the limitations of the mandate of the Special Committee to communicate directly with the Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. Recommends that the Special Committee request the United Nations Committee on Information to mandate the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Information Centres to disseminate information on decolonization and other United Nations activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Recommends that the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar be taken into consideration in the preparation of the 1995 report of the Special Committee;

14. Recommends that the Special Committee request the General Assembly to include in its resolutions on decolonization a request addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolutions relating to decolonization;

15. Expresses its concern regarding difficulties in the implementation of the relevant provision of the Plan of Action which calls for periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and calls upon the Special Committee to find alternative ways for the implementation of that provision;

16. Welcomes the launching in London, on the day of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, by Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), together with other dependent territories, of the Association of the British Dependent Territories, with a view to promoting mutual cooperation and assisting in the dissemination of information relevant to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. Notes the request of Gibraltar that the Special Committee give consideration to the relevance of article X of the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 as regards the available options in respect of this particular Non-Self-Governing Territory and suggests that this request be considered by the Special Committee;

18. Affirms that, as most of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island States, it is important that continued socio-economic advancement, including foreign economic investment, focus on environmentally sensitive sustainable development, as socio-economic viability and stability seriously impact on the self-determination efforts of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories; recommends that technical capacity be provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to develop environmental and resource profiles of their Territories;

19. Supports the recommendation of the 1990 Special Committee Regional Seminar held in Barbados and the 1992 Regional Seminar in Grenada for formal collaboration between the Special Committee and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) on the CDCC-proposed comprehensive study of the access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the development process of these Territories;

20. Endorses the work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in assisting the socio-economic and constitutional development process of many Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories, and calls on the Special Committee to assist CDCC in carrying out the relevant provisions of its work programme, as identified by the Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular its socio-economic and constitutional profile of the non-independent Caribbean, its analysis of the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in programmes and activities of the United Nations system, including United Nations conferences, and its study on the impact of international trade arrangements on the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

21. Endorses the view that regional institutions such as CDCC and the South Pacific Forum had more direct contact with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as most of these Territories were members or associate members of a number of regional institutions, with the concurrence of their respective administering Powers;

22. Supports the need for accreditation of non-governmental organizations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to United Nations bodies;

23. Requests the Special Committee to consider the proposal that, since there was no mechanism in place to implement the major features of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, CDCC should be requested to carry out the relevant provisions of the Plan of Action at the Caribbean regional level, in particular the periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the

implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the review of the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the provision of appropriate resources for CDCC to undertake these activities;

24. Supports the need for an extensive study to be undertaken on the economic, social and constitutional conditions in each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, as called for by the Special Committee Regional Seminar held in Vanuatu in 1990, which should be undertaken by the relevant regional institutions.

ANNEX I

Statement made by the Minister of Housing and Settlements, Trinidad and Tobago, on 3 July 1995

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, to welcome you to our twin-island Republic. We are pleased that you have accepted our Government's offer to host the Regional Seminar. You are charged with the continued pursuit of the important mandate of examining the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and with making appropriate recommendations on the implementation of the 1991 Plan of Action on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as the historic 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (the famous resolution 1514 (XV)).

Trinidad and Tobago has been a member of the Special Committee on Decolonization - the Special Committee of 24 - since 1962, the year of our independence and attainment of membership in the United Nations. At that time, the mandate of the Special Committee was indeed formidable, and at times may even have appeared insurmountable. Over 50 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean were the subject of detailed discussions, which inevitably were complicated by cold war considerations.

I recall, with great pleasure, my own personal stint of service on the Special Committee from 1971 to 1976. I had the distinct honour of serving as Rapporteur and representing the Special Committee on several of its visiting missions, to the Pacific and elsewhere. In those early years, the deliberations of the Special Committee were highly spirited and there was a clear sense of the task at hand and the means of pursuing it. Those days hold a very warm place in my memory.

The Special Committee has, over the years, demonstrated the achievability of its objectives. Its membership no longer has to address such emotive questions as the decolonization process in Algeria, Kenya, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Mainly in consequence of this process, the membership of the United Nations grew from 104 in 1961 to the present membership of 185, almost completely transforming the Organization.

Today, most of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories are very small in size and population. Although the situation in almost all of these Territories, happily, is not volatile, the mandate of the Special Committee remains challenging and its implementation demanding of great innovation and flexibility.

With an ever-evolving international political and economic system and the related changes in the philosophies and approaches of many Governments and peoples, the climate in which the Special Committee must continue to pursue its goals is, unfortunately, one of scepticism by some. This is unfortunate, but it must never serve to deter you from your task.

Most of the dependencies are micro-entities in the Caribbean and Pacific regions which, for understandable reasons, are reluctant to proceed on the path of independence. Many of them question the possibility of their own economic viability as independent entities and, consequently, are concerned about their capacity to provide adequately for their respective populations if the independence option is chosen. The possibility that not all dependencies would wish to pursue independence was acknowledged in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV). It provides for the political status of a Territory to be determined by more than one legitimate political option to be chosen by the people of the respective Territories.

The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee have reiterated the principles and guidelines contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV). It is important that the activities and proposals of the Special Committee continue to be governed by these landmark resolutions, which have guided that body, and the United Nations as a whole, on the path of success in the area of decolonization.

On the other hand, the Territories themselves and those responsible for administering them should give greater recognition to the fact that the Special Committee and the United Nations are not seeking to dictate the course of their lives. By contributing to the efforts of the Special Committee to make informed assessments of developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to improve the lives of the inhabitants, the Territories and the administering Powers could optimize the benefits to be derived from tne involvement of the Special Committee in constructive activities and discussions pertaining to the Territories.

It is my view and that of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that, particularly in this the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the principles of the Charter, and especially chapter XI, containing the Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories, remain of paramount importance. It is imperative that all relevant bodies of the Organization, including the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies and the United Nations Secretariat, work towards that end. In practice, this means giving concrete expression to the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these Territories are paramount. Creative ways must be found to give real meaning to the Committee's mandate to pursue and promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of the Territories.

The situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean is naturally of direct concern to Trinidad and Tobago. In reality, both the independent States of the Caribbean and the Territories themselves must continue to grapple with the serious constraints of small size and of geographic insularity. We must all equally overcome similar social and economic development problems. Our destinies are inextricably linked.

Some of the obstacles to the development of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean were the subject of discussion at the last Caribbean Seminar on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Grenada in 1992. While I understand that a few of the recommendations adopted three years ago have been implemented, I am told that

others, which point the way to activities that could usefully be undertaken in the coming years by the Special Committee and the United Nations as a whole, are yet to be given full effect. Perhaps a review of the proposals not yet implemented could be undertaken. I very much hope that this Seminar will significantly advance the process begun at that earlier meeting in Grenada.

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, and on my own behalf, to wish you a successful Seminar and to express the hope that, time permitting, it will be possible for you to visit other parts of the country and to experience the uniqueness of our multi-ethnic culture.

ANNEX II

List of participants

Delegation of the Special Committee

Mr. Eugene M. Pursoo (Grenada), (Chairman, Special Committee)

Ms. Yao Yuhua (China)

Mr. Rengaraj Viswanathan (India)

Mr. Thomas Samodra Sriwidjaja (Indonesia)

Mr. Domingo M. dos Dores Soares (Indonesia)

Mr. Achmad Wirahadikusumah (Indonesia)

Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

Mr. Alimamy Pallo Bangura (Sierra Leone)

Mrs. Annette des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago)

Mrs. Roslyn Khan-Cummings (Trinidad and Tobago)

Mr. El Walid Doudech (Tunisia)

Mr. Ulli K. Mwambulukutu (United Republic of Tanzania)

Mr. Allan Breier (Venezuela)

Administering Power

Mr. Antonio Noronha Gamito (Portugal)

Observers

Mr. Ivan Ivanissevich (Argentina)

Representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories

Mr. Zacarias da Costa (East Timor)

Ms. Norma Edwards (Falkland Islands (Malvinas))

Mr. William Luxton (Falkland Islands (Malvinas))

Mr. J. J. Bossano (Gibraltar)

Mr. Melvin Farrell (Gibraltar)

Mr. Perry Stieglitz (Gibraltar)

Mr. Dan Parkinson (Guam)

Mr. Ignacio Iriarte (Guam)

Mr. Anthony Babauta (Guam)

Mr. Sonny Orsini (Guam)

Experts

Mr. Frank Abdulah (Trinidad and Tobago)

Miss Judith L. Bourne (United States Virgin Islands)

Mr. Noel Brown (Jamaica)

Mr. José A. Cousiño (Chile)

Mr. Fred Philips (Barbados)

Ms. Donna Winslow (Canada)

United Nations bodies

Mr. Carlyle Corbin (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee)

Ms. Claudette Walker, United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Hadi Toron, United Nations Information Centre

Non-governmental organizations

Mr. Yann Celene Uregei (Congrés populaire, New Caledonia)

Mr. Ronald Rivera (Organization of Peoples for Indigenous Rights, Guam)

Mr. C. Walton Brown, Jr. (Committee for the Independence of Bermuda, Bermuda)

Mr. Menelaos Tzelios (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, United States of America)

Government of Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Margaret King-Rousseau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Sharon Bradshaw, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ANNEX III

Expression of appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Caribbean Regional Seminar,

Having met from 3 to 5 July 1995 at Port-of-Spain for the purpose of conducting a mid-term review of the Plan of Action within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard the important message delivered by Mr. Vincent Lasse, Minister of Housing and Settlements of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,

Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for providing the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with the necessary facilities for its Caribbean Regional Seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the Seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants and observers throughout their stay in Trinidad and Tobago.